

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Army Staff Sergeant Michael Garcia in ground combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia was a native of Big Spring, Texas, but he and his family later relocated to Bossier City, Louisiana, and he graduated from Bossier High School in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia attended Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana, before he enlisted in the United States Army in 2004 and began his military career as an explosives technician; and

WHEREAS, while Staff Sergeant Garcia knew the dangers involved with being an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, he trained hard, rose through the ranks, and was recognized by those he served with as an expert EOD man; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia was assigned to the 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and was an EOD Team Leader with the unit when it deployed to Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia had served two tours of duty in Iraq before he began his third middle eastern combat deployment as he and his fellow soldiers were assigned to Wardak Province, Afghanistan, to support the 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia was a seasoned veteran of the war on terrorism, even though he was still a young man, only twenty-seven years old, as he performed his dangerous job of disarming explosives and disposing of them; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia and his unit came under attack by enemy insurgents on July 4, 2011, and was mortally wounded by an improvised explosive device as a result of the engagement; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Garcia had been recognized for his bravery and service in uniform and his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with V Device for combat valor, three Purple Hearts, NATO Medal, Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals, Navy Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, the Combat Action Badge, Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge, as well as Driver and Mechanic Badges.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Michael Garcia for their immeasurable loss and his ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his father, David Garcia.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE